



Town of North Andover

Quarterly Newsletter

News from the School Department

July 2011 - Issue 20

Town Meeting Approves Consensus Budget for Schools

At the Town Meeting on June 7, the Town approved the consensus FY12 Budget of \$36,916,601 for the schools. This budget represents about \$68,000 less than the FY11 School Budget and will result in the loss of 7.1 current positions in the schools, as well as two positions introduced as part of new programs. The reduction list can be viewed in the [Budget Reduction Plan to Meet the FY12 Approved School Budget](#). The recommended capital improvement items included in the Green Project Proposal were also approved. These projects will fund a new roof for the middle school, energy-efficient windows for the Atkinson School, and needed roof repairs at Sargent. The town will save approximately \$1.7 million by securing the work through the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Green Project Program.

Extensive work was done by the School Committee and the School Department to minimize the effect of the anticipated budget cuts. One of the important successes of the current school year has been the approval of the new contracts for teachers, nurses and food service employees. Town officials agree with the interpretation of the Superintendent of Schools that the settlement of the teacher contract has absolutely no impact in the area of teacher pensions, as these are funded not by the Essex County Retirement system, but rather by the Massachusetts State Retirement system, to which North Andover does not contribute. Also, in the area of health care costs, the effect of the teachers' contract has been to SAVE the town well over \$1.5 million in health care premium costs over the duration of the contract.

Class of 2011

On June 10, 300 students will graduate from North Andover High School. Over 94% of the Class of 2011 will be attending college next year, including a significant increase in attendance at four-year colleges. Students from the Class of 2011 will be attending institutions such as Harvard, Georgetown, Boston College, Brown University, and many other nationally and regionally known colleges and universities. In addition, some of our students have chosen to enter the military or to pursue employment opportunities. The entire school community extends best wishes to members of the Class of 2011.

Sargent Principal

Dr. Edward Foster will be the next Principal of Sargent Elementary School. Dr. Foster has been a Principal for the past three years at the Trahan Elementary School in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. During his time in Tewksbury, Dr. Foster led his school through a challenging reconfiguration of elementary schools which involved the transition of the school from a K-4 format to a school devoted solely to grades 3 and 4. This transition obviously created a real challenge for teachers and students moving in and out from different schools and adjusting to a new environment. Dr. Foster won the hearts and minds of his faculty, the students, the parents, district administrators and the School Committee in making that transition seamless. Dr. Foster received his doctorate in Administration, Training and Policy Studies from Boston University.

All of us in the North Andover School District are excited by the appointment of Dr. Foster to be the Principal of Sargent.

News from the Conservation Department

North Andover Trails and Open Space Update

North Andover has a wealth of beautiful trails and scenic open spaces. Many different groups contribute to the improvement and Stewardship of these wonderful natural resources. The Conservation Department would like to share the following updates with the town:

Trail Kiosks:

North Andover will soon have completed kiosks at several popular trail head locations. New kiosk frames have been installed at Half Mile Hill, Carter Hill, Mazurenko Farm, Town Farm and Foster Farm thanks to the efforts of DPW and Eagle Scout candidate Garrett Galvin. DPW has erected the kiosk frames and Garrett is organizing work details to finish each kiosk and prepare it for housing maps and other important site specific information. The maps and information will appear on the completed kiosks over the summer, with installations continuing at Molly Town, Osgood Hill, Windrush Farm and James Swamp/Reynolds Field as the summer continues.

Molly Town Trail:

A new three-quarter mile trail was created this year in the 44 acre open space between the end of Molly Town Road and a Portion of Harold Parker State Forest near Sterling Lane. The trail is an ideal neighborhood path for low to moderate hiking and dog-walking, featuring views of unique glacial rock formations within a vibrant Forest habitat for native birds and wildlife. North Andover resident Shane Wescott completed blazing of the new trail and construction of a footbridge over a large stream as part of his Eagle Scout Project. The work was the

result of collaboration between Shane, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the North Andover Conservation Department.

James Swamp/Reynold's Field Bridges:

Two new footbridges were installed in the past year to allow easy crossing of streams and wetlands in the popular James Swamp Trail system. The work provides full access to this beautiful wooded area, providing a convenient hiking opportunity for young families visiting the Reynolds Soccer Fields. The Trailhead and Kiosk for the James Swamp system are located near Johnson Street at end of the bridge over Mosquito Brook. Construction of the new bridges was completed by Eagle Scout Brian Varga, bringing the total number of bridges within this diverse natural area to seven.

Trail Maintenance:

The Friends of North Andover Trails (FONAT) have been instrumental in maintaining and improving trails in North Andover, including the following parcels in town.

Mazurenko Farm and Carter Hill

Osgood Hill, including installation of a boardwalk at Prescott St.

James Swamp

Foster Farm and

The Shawsheen River trail.

Maintenance of these trails by FONAT allows for continued public enjoyment and passive recreation for North Andover residents and visitors alike. Please check out FONAT's website at www.fonat.org.

News from the Police Department

National Night Out 2011

The North Andover Police Department, Neighborhood Crime Watch, Wood Ridge Homes and the North Andover Merchants Association will be sponsoring "National Night Out 2011" celebration on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, for all North Andover residents. The program will start at Woodridge Homes 10 Wood Ridge Drive from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and then a town-wide event at the North Andover Middle School football field (Hayes Stadium) from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

This is the 28th anniversary for National Night Out, which supports the Neighborhood Crime Watch initiatives for crime and drug prevention. The program is designed to heighten awareness, and generate support and participation in anti-crime programs. It strengthens neighborhood spirit, police-community partnerships, and sends a message to criminals letting them know that the neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The North Andover Police Department is in its 8th year of National Night Out. Local businesses, town organizations, municipal departments, town clergy and others have come forward together for the North Andover community partnership.



The North Andover Police and Fire Departments will have equipment and personnel on display. Children will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken with Public Safety personnel and equipment. Residents will also be an opportunity to obtain information on various programs offered throughout our community and displays by North Andover Merchants. There will a barbecue, prepared by a local chef. North Andover Youth & Recreation Services will once again be offering games and face painting for our younger residents.

Additional information or to participate please contact crime-watch@napd.us

News from Division of Public Works

North Andover Energy Reduction Projects

The Town of North Andover, working through the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and the Town's Sustainability Committee, has procured the services of an Energy Services Contractor (ESCO). An ESCO is a firm that coordinates all aspects of Energy Management for a community including energy audits, design engineering, equipment installation, construction management, equipment maintenance, and project monitoring. The first phase is a detailed energy and water audit of all Town buildings including schools, Town Hall, the Water Treatment plant, and Steven's Memorial Library to name just a few. The audit will look at all aspects of a building that could impact the uses of energy and water such as heating, air conditioning, lighting, fixtures, motors, and windows. From this detailed investigation a priority list will be developed to determine projects to recommend for funding at Town Meeting in 2012.

Once the projects are funded the ESCO will move forward with design, installation, and monitoring of the project. State statute allows municipalities to use energy management services type contracts to purchase a program of services, including design and construction work, that is primarily intended to reduce energy and water consumption. Although Town Meeting will authorize bonding for the projects the savings generated from the energy efficient equipment installed will reduce operating costs and are guaranteed by the ESCO.

The contractor selected is Ameresco located in Framingham, Massachusetts and is a leading provider of energy management services. The Town has entered into the first contract for the detailed audits of Town buildings. These audits will be completed by fall, which will allow time to go through the approval process for energy projects recommended at Town Meeting.

News from the Fire Department

Fires starting in mulch beds are responsible for many structure fires throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Many of these fires have started by careless disposal of smoking materials that could have easily been avoided. The combination of heat, fuel and air [fire triangle] often come together resulting in millions of dollars in damages. The State Fire Marshalls Office is discussing regulations on the use of mulch in commercial and business use properties. This problem is not limited to these properties; the city of Peabody experienced a large loss fire involving multi residential property 2 years ago. One contributing factor is more people are smoking outside than in years past. The Fire Department encourages approved smoking receptacles' be placed at the entrances of all building where mulch beds come in contact with buildings. Home owners should also provide such receptacles for those who smoke. To completely extinguish a fire involving mulch the material needs to be saturated with copious amounts of water and removed. These fires can burn undetected below the sur-

face for many hours.

The public education bureau headed up by Lt William McCarthy has had a busy spring. They are responsible for fire safety education in the school system. Perhaps their biggest tool [The Fire Safety Trailer] has been very active in traveling to the different schools. Their target audience is kindergarten through 2nd grade. The trailer is designed as a multi level residential home equipped with smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Here, students learn good fire safety practices involving cooking, heating, fireplaces and wood stoves. The trailer is also equipped with a mock smoke delivery system and close circuit TV. The students are taught to evacuate in a safe manner and report to a pre arranged meeting area to call 911. This program originated in 1994. One of the goals of this program is that each student will go home and share their knowledge of fire safety with family members. This program has become quite successful; it is funded by the S.A.F.E. Grant.